

The Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association

Minutes of the monthly meeting of The Board of Directors, August 6, 2022.

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 A.M. by President Kellogg. Board members present by Zoom teleconference: Glenn Borland, Robert Carlyle, Cliff Kellogg, Michael Pique, Keith Ronchetti. Also participating were PMPO board members Elizabeth Getzoff and Lafe Ball, CERT Coordinator Bill Leininger, Kathy Bates-Lande, Palomar Fire Safe Council President Yvonne Vaucher, CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Adam Gettman, and CAL FIRE Captain Dean Kowalski.

Public Comment: none offered.

Minutes: The minutes from the 07/02/2022 board meeting were approved.

Financial Report: Keith Ronchetti's written report (available at palomar-fire.org) showed a balance of \$89,949.49 (with \$2253.71 held for CERT), the main expense was paying for the July dumpster. The report was approved.

Station 79 Report: Captain Kowalski is still officially "out" from his hand injury but expects to be cleared for duty tomorrow morning. The tentative word is that more staffing is on the way, but not certain. Especially, the paramedic positions dry up before they get to us; that slot has been vacant for two years now. Our Battalion Chiefs are on strike teams north, or just back from one. County resources have been tied up with on-boarding the Ramona stations onto County fire. Any change of contract, there's a lot of county-wide priorities such as building maintenance and outfitting. The three stations in Ramona need a lot of attention, so our requests for fence maintenance and other small items have been delayed. Cliff Kellogg got a message from a community member about a recent call: "The crew did it an excellent job of dealing with it."

Chief Gettman says he has been busy up and down the state, for 15 days he was in Fresno and Maricopa, and yesterday at a fire on the Banner Grade east of Julian.

County Fire Advisory (CFA) Board Update: Cliff says the next meeting is September 12.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT): Bill Leininger reports the next CERT academy training at Station 79 will be August 13 and 20 to help residents prepare for the next disaster; expecting six students. Palomar CERT is also helping with Julian CERT training. Palomar CERT will participate in a county-wide quarterly outreach program next to the US Forest Service Crestline Picnic Ground in October. The CERT trailer is still needing interior adjustments but is ready for emergency use. We want to have modules staged inside the cargo containers for different emergency situations. We expect to transfer the ownership of the CERT trailer to the county for title and insurance reasons. Bill says that is in the paperwork process, with three other CERT trailers in the county being done at the same time.

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (FSC) Yvonne Vaucher: The FSC met on Saturday July 23 by Zoom. The FSC received a \$12,000 grant for 5 days each of chipping and dumpsters, liability insurance, evacuation placards, and community outreach education. We are still having problems getting roadside clearance permission from Crestline residents. A new letter was sent out last month requesting permission; Robert Carlyle says about 12 more permission agreements came back. Robert is still trying to see how we can affordably remove a large rock obstructing one of the easement roads east of the Lodge. We continue to have administrative delays receiving advances of our \$42,000 road-clearing grant, so our Stumpmasters crew is working elsewhere until funds are available.

About 25 evacuation map posters have been printed and laminated and some have been distributed by CERT. Michael Pique will put the rest of them in the post office. Our \$49,000 neighborhood reinvestment program (NRP) grant application is still being considered by the county supervisors, to be reviewed in August. The PMFSC web site is progressing and we hope it will launch to the public in August. Next FSC meeting 10 AM Saturday August 28. Next event is Gold-Spotted Oak Borer (GSOB) Town Hall by Tom Scott, September 10, 10 AM, at Station 79.

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM): Cliff Kellogg continues to talk to Monica Toledo at the county about possible legal arrangements for the community to reclaim use of the small house. Cliff showed us the most recent (March 2022) draft. Each groups' insurance would have to include Workers Compensation, Automobile, Bodily Injury, and Property Damage. Cliff will ask if groups who do not own motor vehicles will still need to buy the Automobile insurance. Monica has indicated that "small groups of only a dozen" (like the Community Church) could meet under the CCPM license. Yvonne Vaucher asks, who do we address for house repairs such as painting? Cliff says the county general services department. Yvonne says we need to repair a hole in the lower level wall covered by cardboard. Captain Kowalski says the "cardboard" is a half-inch-thick piece of particle board and is part of the air conditioning system. In the winter, we should remove the particle board and replace it with the screen stored in the cellar..

Palomar Mountain Planning Organization (PMPO) Michael Pique (Secretary): next board meetings are August 27, December 3, and February 25, all 10 AM. After that is the Annual General Meeting, Saturday 05/27/2023 (Memorial Day weekend) at 10 AM.

New Business – Board Elections – Rob Dowell has agreed to serve as the nominating committee (one person, in reality); Michael Pique will help him with announcement signage and electronic notifications. There are three positions open for election: those of Cliff Kellogg, Robert Carlyle, and Glenn Borland. Cliff is leaving but Robert and Glenn will stand for reelection.

Adjournment: 10:20 AM 08/06/2022. The next PMCFE meeting is the Annual General Meeting, Sunday September 4, 2022, at noon, at Station 79 with Zoom and/or telephone call-in available.

- Michael Pique, Secretary Minutes approved by PMCFE Board 10/01/2022.